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constantly coming in and furnishing enough fuel to keep the epidemic smoldering. I have heard of no new cases in the surrounding country, and the shipping continues free from infection.

Respectfully, yours,

SAML. H. HODGSON,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Yellow fever on British steamship Transit at Progreso.

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
Progreso, July 16, 1899.

SIR: I have to report that the British steamship *Transit*, from Vera Cruz and Tampico, arrived at this port on the 13th instant.

On the 15th instant, while the vessel was unloading at the dock, 2 of the crew were seen to be unwell. They were given medical attention, and to-day, the 16th, the cases were officially declared to be yellow fever. One of the 2 cases will unquestionably prove to be fatal.

The health officials of the port have taken energetic action in the matter. The steamship has been ordered in quarantine at a safe distance offshore and close vigilance is being observed.

Yucatan, up to date of writing, has had no case of yellow fever this season. The case noted in some newspaper reports a few weeks ago proved to be only a mild case of bilious fever and the subject was up and about his business in less than four days.

Respectfully, yours,

EDWARD H. THOMPSON,
United States Consul.

The honorable the ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

Inspection service at Puebla and Orizaba.

MEXICO, MEXICO, August 6, 1899.

SIR: In accordance with Bureau letter (J. W. B) of June 16, 1899, wherein I was ordered to visit when necessary the towns on the lines of railroad between Mexico City and Vera Cruz, I have the honor to inform you that I left here on the morning of August 2 and arrived in Puebla on the afternoon of the same day. I immediately called upon the consular agent, Mr. Headen, for the purpose of explaining the Service work in Mexico, and to arrange for the certification of residents of Puebla who might travel to the United States, and whose health status, while perfectly good, would be unknown to us. Mr. Headen promised any assistance within his power, and any information likely to be of interest to us. He was requested to issue a certificate to each passenger, but addressed to this office, stating the length of time the passenger had resided in Puebla, whether an infected locality had been visited, and whether the passenger had traveled in a local or through train to Mexico City. I learned upon good authority that no cases of yellow fever have been brought to Puebla this year. I left on the following morning, August 3, for Orizaba, on which place I will make a separate report.

Respectfully, yours,

L. E. COFER,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

MEXICO, MEXICO, *August 6, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report on the city of Orizaba, at which place I arrived in the afternoon of August 3. Orizaba lies on the main line of the Mexican Railway, at a distance of 82 miles from Vera Cruz, and 181 miles from the City of Mexico. The time distance from Vera Cruz is about four hours, and from Mexico City about ten hours. The altitude of Orizaba is 4,027 feet, which with its excellent natural drainage and abundant rainfall should insure for it a high degree of healthfulness. This, however, is not the case, as enteric, typhus, and the severe forms of malarial fever are nearly always present. The population of Orizaba is about 45,000, and the annual death rate from all causes for the year ended June 30, 1899, was 2,434. The water supply, which is supposed to be, and undoubtedly is, the cause of the intestinal diseases which prevail in Orizaba, is derived partly from small mountain streams and from private wells. There is no sewer system, except one large stone sewer which runs through the center of the town, therefore, all refuse must be swept away by the surface drainage. I called upon the district registrar and was allowed to compile the following table from the official records. As deaths alone are reported, the actual number of cases is unknown.

Year and month.	Yellow fever.	Typhus fever.	Enteric fever.	Perniciosa.
1899.				
January.....		1	2	
February.....		3	1	
March.....		2	1	
April.....		1	3	
May.....	4	3	2	6
June.....	2	1	1	4
July.....	a 5	0	0	5

a Last case died on July 24.

All of the cases of yellow fever were imported either from Vera Cruz or Cordoba. I was unable to obtain reliable information as to the total number of cases of yellow fever. Dr. Mindiola, of Orizaba, cited to me 3 recoveries from this disease. If one could be certain that the cases of perniciosa were all of a malarial nature an exact number of cases might be more easily arrived at. While the town of Orizaba is noninfectible, I see no reason to depart from our rule requiring detention of all passengers and disinfection of all baggage coming from that place. I have arranged with a resident of Orizaba, a Mr. Delplaine, to have a weekly mortality report forwarded to the Marine-Hospital Service Bureau, and also any information likely to prove of use in the Service work here forwarded to this office.

Respectfully, yours,

L. E. COFER,

Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

PORTUGAL.

Plague in Oporto and Lisbon.

August 16: Consul at Lisbon wires State Department: "Bubonic pest at Oporto. Few cases at Lisbon. No trains can pass Spanish frontier. No more clean bills of health issued vessels."